INFORMATION SOURCES and PROGRAMS for ALBERTA PORK PRODUCERS

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
AGDEX 440/01-2

INFORMATION SOURCES

District agriculturists

There are currently 66 district offices in Alberta. The district agriculturists act as information sources for producers and potential producers. They also organize seminars on pork production management for local producers. A list of the district offices is included.

Swine specialists

Swine specialists are located in four of the six Alberta Agriculture regional offices (Vermilion, Barrhead, Red Deer and Lethbridge). The specialist is responsible for promoting good pig husbandry and business management in the swine industry by providing professional consultation and latest research information to pork producers, district agriculturists, feed industry personnel, agribusiness and veterinarians.

The swine specialists provide their information and services to the Alberta industry by:

- making calls to local farms
- telephone consultation for answering production questions
- office visits with clients
- producing and distributing occasional and regular newsletters
- using departmental and other media
- conducting local and regional seminars
- planning, staging and acting as resource persons in the annual Alberta Pork Seminar and Alberta Pork Congress
- providing district agriculturists with back-up expertise in swine production technology.

Specialists also carry out research through the Farming for the Future On-Farm Demonstration Program.

Copies of this publication may be obtained from:
Print Media Branch
Alberta Agriculture
Edmonton, Alberta
T6H 5T6
or Alberta Agriculture district offices.

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Swine nutritionist

The monogastric nutritionist located in Edmonton provides nutrition information to feed companies, veterinarians, swine specialists, district agriculturists and producers. Technical information is transferred through newsletters, seminar presentations, phone consultations, farm visits and ration formulation services. A feed testing service is also available through the Soil and Animal Nutrition Laboratory in Edmonton. Sample containers and data sheets are available in district offices.

Regional agricultural engineers

Regional agricultural engineers are located in each of the six Alberta Agriculture regional offices. The regional engineers maintain and distribute hog barn plans to pork producers. They provide advice and planning information on heating and ventilation design. They give advice on hog manure handling and assist in solving ventilation, heating and manure handling problems within the hog barn. They also assist in planning and siting the hog barn, and administer the certificate of compliance program in the region.

Regional farm economists

Regional farm economists are located in each of the six Alberta Agriculture regional offices. They provide farm and financial management information to producers. The can assist producers in preparing a detailed farm business analysis to identify potential cash flow problems of the business, as well as assist in developing financial plans for future operations. Other services available include advice on estate planning for farm families, farm income tax strategies and farm business arrangement alternatives.

Financial consultants

Across the province, a number of farmers have been retained by Alberta Agriculture to provide in-depth financial and farm management services to individual farm businesses upon request.

Map of the six Alberta Agriculture regions.

These consultants operate successful farms, have demonstrated effective farm and management skills in their own operations, often have college or university training to complement their experience and have a wide range of expertise, swine included. Their services can be arranged through your district agriculturist.

Market information and regional marketing specialists

Regional marketing specialists are located in four of the six Alberta Agriculture regional offices (Vermilion, Fairview, Red Deer, Lethbridge). Advice on marketing alternatives, market outlook and other market information is provided.

A market price and sales newsletter (The Weekly) is published by the market analysis branch of Alberta Agriculture. It provides a weekly report of prices and sales of livestock, grains and oilseeds. It is available through the district office.

Animal health extension and advisory services

Members of the animal health division speak at meetings organized by regional department staff, feed companies and others. They write articles for publication in both lay and professional press.

Animal health division staff will conduct in-depth investigations of disease problems on farms but generally only at the request of the practising veterinarian. Telephone consultations regarding disease problems are provided year round.

Alberta Pork Producers Marketing Board

The Alberta Pork Producers Marketing Board, in addition to being an agency to market hogs, provides information such as a weekly market information letter, a free magazine called the Western Hog Journal, pork recipes and other information available upon request. Contact the Alberta Pork Producers Marketing Board, 10319 Princess Elizabeth Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, T5G 0Y5, phone 474-8288.

PROGRAMS AVAILABLE

Alberta swine improvement program

The Alberta swine improvement program is primarily intended to help breeding stock producers identify and select superior breeding stock and to make these available to the commercial industry. Two factors measured are leanness and growth rate. The purpose is to identify leaner, faster growing animals producing higher market indexes and greater financial returns. Increased output and decreased cost to the producer are potential benefits.

Swine improvement technicians test and evaluate young boars and gilts at participating farms. The home test results are published and distributed bimonthly. Both seed stock and commercial pork producers use the results to assist them in choosing replacement breeding stock. Boars are also tested at central test stations for growth rate and leanness. Test station results are available via the sale notices of the monthly boar sales. Stock is offered for sale each month at the test stations.

The swine improvement program also provides the sow productivity and management program, a mail-in computerized record keeping package for sows. For each sow in the herd, farrowing interval, total number of pigs born, preweaning mortality, number weaned, pigs per sow per year and kg of pigs per sow per year if litters are weighed, is provided. Herd summaries are provided. This program is available to both breeding stock and commercial producers.

More information on this program and breeding stock selection is available from the booklet *Swine Improvement Programs and Procedures*, and from district agriculturists, regional swine specialists, technicians or the pork industry branch in Edmonton.

Swine herd health program

This program is divided into three sections: high health, seed stock and commercial.

The *high health section* is open to herds whose foundation stock was surgically derived or obtained from such a herd. Herds in this category must be free from enzootic pneumonia, hemophilus pneumonia, atrophic rhinitis, transmissible gastroenteritis, swine dysentery, salmonellosis, leptospirosis and mange.

The *seedstock section* is open to farrow-to-finish operations that sell breeding stock, keep meaningful records and meet certain minimum standards of disease control and sanitation.

The *commercial section* is open to all other farrow-to-finish or farrow-to-wean operations in Alberta provided that they have at least 30 sows. Herds are enrolled for a period of four years during which time they will receive a total of 12 veterinary inspections carried out by their local veterinary practitioner. Details are available through regional swine specialists and the animal health division of Alberta Agriculture.

Diagnostic services

Provincial veterinary laboratories are located at Fairview, Edmonton, Airdrie and Lethbridge. They provide a diagnostic service for a small fee. With many diseases of pigs, the signs of illness are very similar and frequently the only satisfactory way of obtaining an accurate diagnosis is to have a postmortem examination carried out.

Alberta swine record keeping system

Alberta Agriculture provides a concise, practical record keeping system and forms to Alberta producers. More information is available on the record keeping system in the *Alberta Swine Record System Manual*, available through your local district agriculturist.

Tripartite red meat stabilization program

National tripartite price stabilization schemes have been established by federal-provincial agreement. They are designed to reduce income loss to producers from market risks. The premium costs are shared equally by the Government of Canada, the Alberta government and participating producers. Producer participation is voluntary. A detailed brochure on the scheme for hogs is available from district offices.

Crow benefit offset program

This program is designed to provide a benefit to feed grain users by reducing the cost of feed grains by the amount that the federal Crow benefit distorts Alberta feed grain prices. This program applies to purchased grain or mixed feed as well as grain grown and fed on the farm. The current rate of payment effective July 1, 1987 is $13 per tonne. Details are available from district offices.

Swine AI services

Fresh liquid semen prepared from high quality performance tested boars is sold for use in artificial breeding of sows. Potential users are asked to enroll in a one day swine AI short course before ordering semen. Dates for courses, information about the AI program and current prices can be obtained from the Alberta Agriculture Swine Breeding Centre, R.R. 2, Leduc, Alberta T9E 2X2, phone 986-1250. Most fresh boar semen used in Alberta is delivered to the producer by Greyhound bus for pickup within 24 hours of leaving the AI centre. Semen should be used within 72 hours of processing for best results. A swine AI handbook is available.

Green certificate program

The goal of this program is to train and certify individuals to competently fill key roles in the swine industry. Basically, it is a skill based apprenticeship program in which selected farmers train students according to a fairly detailed curriculum, in this case, swine management. A daily financial payment is provided to the trainer for training services satisfactorily provided. For further information on this program, contact a farm training specialist in Vermilion, Barrhead or Lethbridge, or the district offices of Alberta Agriculture.

Home study course

A home study course in pork production provides detailed information on all aspects of swine production in a seven chapter booklet. This is available at a nominal charge to applicants. Details and pamphlets are available at district offices.

Pork production handbook

This collection of over 75 fact sheets provides information on technical topics in pork production. It is available from the pork industry branch and may be requested through the district offices of Alberta Agriculture.

Other programs and information

Programs and information on agricultural lending, engineering and rural services, marketing, crop production, soils and irrigation, other livestock needs, 4-H and home study courses, can be obtained through the district offices of Alberta Agriculture.

REGIONAL OFFICES

Lethbridge (Southern)	381-5130	Agriculture Centre, Jail Road
Airdrie (South Central)	948-8500	Agriculture Regional Centre
Red Deer (Central)	340-5376	#301 Provincial Building 4920 - 51 Street
Vermilion (Northeast)	853-8109	Provincial Building
Barrhead (Northwest)	674-8264	Provincial Building
Fairview (Peace)	835-2291	Provincial Building

DISTRICT OFFICES

Southern Region (12)

Bow Island	545-2233	Provincial Building
Brooks	362-5551	Provincial Building
Cardston	653-4848	Provincial Building
Claresholm	625-3301	Provincial Building
Foremost	867-3606	Provincial Building
Lethbridge	381-5237	Agriculture Centre, Jail Road
Medicine Hat	529-3616	Provincial Building
Pincher Creek	627-2587	Provincial Building
Taber	223-7907	Administration Building
Vauxhall	654-2161	Provincial Building
Vulcan	485-2236	County Building
Warner	642-3884	Health Unit Building

South Central Region (9)

Airdrie	948-8551	Provincial Building
Calgary	297-6281	911 - 32 Avenue, N.E.
Drumheller	823-5740	Provincial Building
Hanna	854-5500	212 - 2nd Avenue, W.
High River	652-3232	Provincial Building
Olds	556-4220	Provincial Building
Oyen	664-3899	Provincial Building
Strathmore	934-3355	Wheatland County Building
Three Hills	443-8525	Provincial Building

North Central Region (11)

Camrose	679-1210	4909C - 48 Street
Coronation	578-3970	Provincial Building
Innisfail	227-6565	Provincial Building
Lacombe	782-3301	Agriculture Building
Ponoka	783-7072	Provincial Building
Red Deer	340-5364	Provincial Building
Rimbey	843-2201	Provincial Building
Rocky Mountain House	845-8200	Provincial Building
Sedgewick	384-3737	County Building
Stettler	742-7500	Provincial Building
Wetaskiwin	352-1240	Provincial Building

Northeast Region (12)

Bonnyville	826-3388	Provincial Building
Lac La Biche	623-5218	Provincial Building
Lamont	663-3555	County Building
Lloydminster	871-6460	Provincial Building
Provost	753-6871	Provincial Building
Ryley	663-3555	County Building
St. Paul	645-6301	East Adray Building
Smoky Lake	656-3613	Provincial Building
Two Hills	657-3311	Provincial Building
Vegreville	632-5400	Provincial Building
Vermilion	853-8101	Provincial Building
Wainwright	842-7540	Provincial Building

Northwest Region (12)

Athabasca	675-2252	Provincial Building
Barrhead	674-8213	Provincial Building
Drayton Valley	542-5368	Provincial Building
Edson	723-8205	Provincial Building
Evansburg	727-3673	Dickman Building
Fort Saskatchewan	998-0190	Provincial Building
Leduc	986-2251	County Building
Morinville	939-4351	Provincial Building
Sangudo	785-2266	County Building
Stony Plain	963-6101	Provincial Building
Thorhild	398-3993	County Building
Westlock	349-4465	Provincial Building

Peace Region (10)

Eaglesham	359-3828	Municipal Building
Fairview	835-2241	Provincial Building
Fahler	837-2211	Municipal District Building
Fort Vermilion	927-3712	Ag Canada Research Station
Grande Prairie	538-5285	Provincial Building
High Prairie	523-6504	Boyt Building
Manning	836-3351	Agriculture Building
Peace River	624-6205	Provincial Building
Spirit River	864-3597	Provincial Building
Valleyview	524-3301	Provincial Building

Pork Industry Branch

Edmonton - general	427-5320	#204, 7000 - 113 St. J.G. O'Donoghue Building
Swine Improvement	427-5319	#204, 7000 - 113 St. J.G. O'Donoghue Building
Leduc, Swine AI	986-1250	Swine Breeding Centre R.R. #2
Swine technicians at:		
Lethbridge:	381-5108	Agriculture Centre, Jail Road
Red Deer:	340-5334	4920 - 51 Street
Edmonton:	437-5319	#204, 7000 - 113 St. J.G. O'Donoghue Building
Vermilion:	853-8109	Provincial Building
Barrhead:	674-8251	Provincial Building
Fairview:	835-2291	Provincial Building

Swine Nutrition Services

Edmonton	436-9150	O.S. Longman Building 6909 - 116 Street

Market Analysis

Edmonton	427-5376	7000 - 113 Street J.G. O'Donoghue Building

Animal Health

Edmonton	436-9343	O.S. Longman Building 6909 - 116 Street, 3rd Floor

Crow Offset Program

Edmonton	422-0015	11th Floor, Park Square 10001 Bellamy Hill